

With the new school year underway, increasing the enrolment of refugee children in formal education is a priority

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

Across the region, increasing access to education for Syrian refugee children remains a challenge and a priority. In Egypt, two surveys on out-of-school children were concluded in November. While the results of both surveys, which reached more than 16,000 households, will be released in coming weeks, initial findings indicate that 12 per cent of children are not attending school. In Iraq, outreach and meetings are being conducted in camps such as Darashakran to increase awareness and boost enrolment rates. In Turkey, provincial workshops are being held to support the development of action plans to increase access to education by refugees. In Jordan, a workshop was held in Zaatari camp to address gaps in access to quality education in the camp, while inclusive education programmes for children with disabilities in camps and communities continue with 20 children identified and integrated into schools so far. In Lebanon, registration in the first shift ended in early November, with information from the field suggesting a sharp decrease in the number of children enrolled compared to last year. Based on field assessments and discussions with regional offices of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), a proposed list of second shift schools to be opened in areas of highest need has been proposed. In addition, a number of selected public schools have been exempted by MEHE from the one-to-one ratio of Lebanese to non-Lebanese children in class, which had represented an obstacle to the enrolment of additional refugee children.

Increasing capacity of schools and investing in new facilities is ongoing. In Iraq, construction of education support centres is ongoing in four camps, while a new caravan school of 12 classrooms was completed in Arbat camp and a new 13 classroom caravan school replaced the tent school in Qushtapa camp. In Turkey, three out of a planned 13 prefabricated schools have been completed while stationary sets, furniture and other supplies and equipment are being provided in temporary education centres in local communities. In Egypt, 25 schools have been targeted for expansion, upgrade, renovation, and supplies. In Lebanon, 110 schools have now been rehabilitated this year, including with WASH facilities.

Other incentives and assistance are also provided in several countries in the region. In Turkey, RRP partners provide daily transportation for over 4,200 children to help them attend school. In Jordan, over 42,000 vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian children have received learning materials, stationary or other supplies. In Egypt, more than 12,100 students received education grants to help children enrol in public schools and help their parents with transportation costs. In Iraq, almost 28,750 children have received school supplies so far this year.



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SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

3,297,276	Refugee Population, end-November 2014
3,590,000	Refugee Population Planning Figure, end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

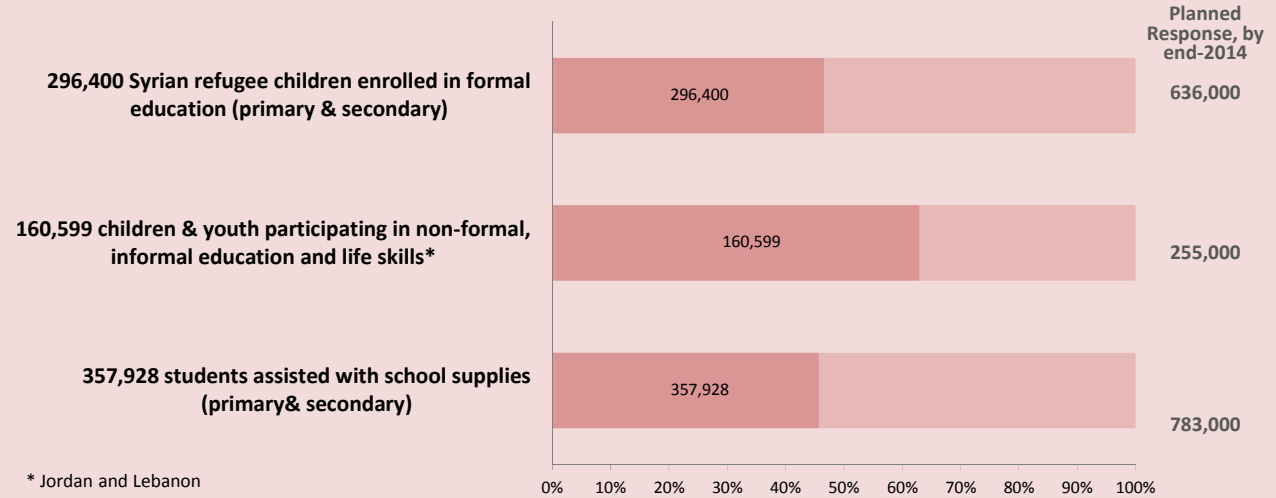
Into the fourth year of crisis, and despite a consensus that efforts are needed to avert a “lost generation”, almost half a million refugee children are not participating in educational activities. Of those participating, only 296,400 are in formal education.

Enrolment rates in camps are generally higher than outside of camps: in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey the rates in camps are 57 per cent, 67 per cent and 97 per cent respectively. National authorities are engaged in education in these camps and Syrian teachers are permitted to contribute. Girls’ enrolment and attendance lags behind same-age boys in most camps.

Outside of camps, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey offer refugee children free access to formal national schools, whereas RRP partners underwrite the costs of children to attend formal education opportunities in Lebanon. Challenges to accessing formal education, which limit the numbers enrolled outside of camps, include overburdened public school systems, overcrowded classrooms, and the limited number of qualified teachers. RRP partners have supported the construction of classrooms and schools, and second shifts have been initiated in Lebanon and Jordan to expand the available spaces for refugee children.

In a number of host countries, efforts are being made to offer non-formal education or provide “catch up” classes to facilitate subsequent access to formal education. It is equally important to ensure that Syrian youth have access to post-secondary education or vocational training.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 2014



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 3.59 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. As at end-November 2014, there were 3.29 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal was 53% funded.